

Now, when I raised this issue with Dr. John Agwunobi, who is the Assistant Secretary For Health, he is a recent Bush appointee, his expertise was being Health and Human Services Director for President Bush's brother in Florida, so he brings tremendous expertise to this job and great professionalism, as do many of the political appointees we have seen with this administration, but when I asked Dr. Agwunobi about the ventilator shortage, he said, well, that is not our job.

I said, well, what about the national stockpile? He said, oh, yeah, we'll get some for the national stockpile. How many? Oh, well, 4,000 or 5,000 ventilators. Remember, we need another 640,000 or so in the case of a pandemic.

So I said, well, whose duty do you think it is to enhance the stockpile? How are we going to enhance the stockpile? He says, oh, no, that is the job of the States and the hospitals. He said, in fact, you know, hospitals or some county somewhere might not build a swimming pool; instead, they should be investigating in preparedness for pandemics.

Well, he doesn't live in the world that most of us live in. My counties are pretty short of money for essentials. They are not out building swimming pools. We don't have public hospitals in my State. The other hospitals that are there can't get reimbursed. You can't work it into a Medicare reimbursement schedule to buy a bunch of ventilators to stockpile for a pandemic. They have to justify the current clientele needing the ventilators, otherwise they are not allowed to put that into their rate base.

So I raised these issues with Dr. Agwunobi, and he just basically blew it off. He is really not too concerned. Now, this is the Assistant Secretary For Health, political appointee of George Bush. He started to kind of remind me of another famous appointee, Michael Brown. But this time it is before the fact. We need action to prepare for a pandemic.

I am writing to the Appropriations Committee recommending that they deal with this in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill; that we mandate some purchases for the national stockpile, minimally of ventilators. We should also be doing a much better job of stockpiling the antivirals; and we should also be, with more urgency, instead of waiting for the private sector or the pharmaceutical companies, who aren't much interested in vaccines or other things they can't make a bunch of money on, to give us some new installed capacity in this country, modern capacity, to develop vaccines. I mean, this pandemic will come in waves. And between the waves, if it goes on for 6 months or a year, you could develop and deploy vaccines once the specifics are known. Unfortunately, there are no modern facilities in the United States of America capable of manufacturing vaccines.

But, again, Dr. Agwunobi and the Bush appointees don't look at this as a

particular problem. We need to better prepare to protect the American people for the possibility of a flu pandemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR METROPOLITAN OPEN HOUSING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of Reverend Martin Luther King's northern campaign. In January of 1966, Dr. King and his family moved to Chicago's west side, not far from where I was living and working at the time. Chicago was one of the most segregated cities in the Nation, and real estate agents were deeply engaged in racial steering and block busting. Beginning in July of 1966, Dr. King organized a series of marches demanding open housing. To the shame of Chicago and the Nation, marches were met by shouts of "White Power," bricks, and even bombs.

Mr. Speaker, those who have been reading the Taylor Branch three-volume biography of Dr. King will be reminded of one of the great ironies of our time. We know less about Dr. King's stay in Chicago than almost any other period of his life because, for some reason, the FBI was relatively unsuccessful in bugging Dr. King's communications in Chicago. One of the things we do know for certain was that although the northern campaign was deemed a failure by many, it gave birth to one of America's great fair housing organizations, the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities.

For 40 years, the Leadership Council has fought the good fight, seeking equality and justice for families who just wanted equal access to the housing market, just wanted a fair shot at finding a decent, affordable place to stay of their own choosing. The Leadership Council made it possible for more than 10,000 public housing families to improve their housing situation as a result of a Federal court settlement with the Chicago Housing Authority.

They relentlessly pursued housing discrimination in the courts through a program of testing. They trained tens of thousands of real estate agents in fair housing law. And though much remains to be done in the arena of fair housing, the Leadership Council is now preparing to close its doors due to lack of funding. These are indeed hard times for nonprofits in general, but fair housing advocates tell us that they have been hit particularly hard.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadership Council left a little of their vision wherever

they ventured, even here in the people's House, where they helped to lead the grass-roots movement which led to passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadership Council will be missed but not forgotten. They leave a proud legacy and can retire with their heads held high. Their resolve and their work will live on as other organizations and individuals pick up where they left off. And although they are closing their doors and going out of business, I say to them and all of those who were associated, A job well done.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, I appreciate the honor and the privilege of addressing the Speaker and, in doing so, addressing this Chamber as well. I know that the voices that come to this floor to make these addresses echo across America, as our Founding Fathers envisioned.

Before I pick up the issue I came to this floor to speak about, I would say a few words in support of the remarks made by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), with regard to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sometimes we lose perspective of that time in America, back in the 1960s, when there was the institutionalization of segregation, particularly in the South.

Those were glorious days when there were civil rights marches for civil rights reasons and the rights that everyone has in this country that are guaranteed by our Constitution. These are individual rights. They are rights without regard to what group you might think you are aligned with. They belong to men and they belong to women, and they are rights that preclude group rights. They are individual rights, the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but more specifically freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom to keep and bear arms, and the right to property ownership, which has been eroded by the Kelo decision here in these last few months, I might add for your benefit particularly, Mr. Speaker, and for mine.

In those days, when there was a peaceful civil rights movement in this country that stood on solid philosophical ground that all people that are citizens of this country, that live here, have equal rights. That is a different kind of a civil rights call than we have heard sometimes across this country today.

There is the argument that there is a civil right to marry anyone that you choose, say, for example, a same-sex marriage civil right they claim. Or a civil right that people claim because

they are illegally in this country and they say I have a global civil right to come to the United States of America and the Americans do not have a civil right to set immigration policies. Those are not civil rights, Mr. Speaker. There is not any civil right to come to America and demand the rights of citizenship; and there is no civil right to marriage, even for opposite sex couples that are madly in love, that traditionally have and will hopefully continue to be joined together in holy matrimony. That is not a civil right.

In fact, we give a license for marriage. And a license is, by definition, a permit to do that which is otherwise illegal. So the State, meaning the government, the Federal Government, there are State governments and some of our local governments, take an interest in that sacred institution of marriage when a man and a woman are joined together in holy matrimony. Because we know that the value of this entire society and civilization is poured through into the next generation of our children through that relationship of holy matrimony between a man and a woman.

We teach our children in that relationship everything that we know and everything that we believe about our values. We pass our religious values along through that marriage relationship. Children are our projects for our life. There is nothing more important that we can do in our lifetime than raise children. So we make them projects. And our first and most important thing is to be able to teach them our religious values and our moral values and our work ethic. And all the things that flow from our culture flow from a father and a mother and a family.

Now, that is the ideal circumstance. And it doesn't mean that there aren't millions of children in America that aren't raised in that kind of an environment. It doesn't mean that they will not have opportunities. They will. And they will pick up their values sometimes from a single mother or a single father. But they need extra nurturing from their pastors and teachers in the neighborhood. We know that statistically most of society's pathologies can be solved by two people joined together in marriage raising children in that marriage and having them also keep a job.

But the fact that there is a marriage license that is granted precludes the idea that there is a civil right to marriage, just like there is not a civil right to someone who lives in another country to come into the United States. Those are not civil rights. Civil rights are specified in title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and those are defined characteristics. There will be no discrimination against people based upon race, creed, religion, ethnicity, skin color, or national origin. And I am not sure that is exactly the quote, but it is exactly the theme, Mr. Speaker.

I know that behind that some of the States have added also age or marital

status. But those are all immutable rights or immutable characteristics, characteristics that can be independently identified and can't be willfully changed. Those are the reality. It is not something that I decide I am going to be a man or a woman or a person of a certain other country or color. You can't change that, Mr. Speaker.

The immutable characteristics are those that are real, they are distinct, they can't be changed, and they can be independently identified. And what we say in title VII of the Civil Rights Act is it shall be unlawful to discriminate against people for that list of immutable characteristics that I have given.

□ 1530

That is what gives the Civil Rights Act the dignity and respect and sets it apart for many of the claims for civil rights that come out today. There is always looking to be another successor to the civil rights movement, and there will never be another need for the civil rights that were demanded in the 1960s, and provided by peaceful demonstrations done in the right way for the right reasons with the right ideals, and those were glorious days for America to go through that change and emerge. I will say we are very sensitive to these issues of race and ethnicity, and we are very respectful of the issues of race and ethnicity, and the work that was done in the 1960s, the benefits flow to us today.

The legacy is with us today. We look across our public life and see successes in people from all avenues, from people that have come from any origin. They have overcome many obstacles, and we applaud that as Americans. As Americans, we are for the underdog. We are for the one who pull themselves up by their bootstraps. We are for the ones who had the least opportunity and made the most from the least opportunity.

The reason that we are is because that embodies the American spirit, the American spirit which is embodied by the massive number of immigrants that have come to this country legally.

Mr. Speaker, 66.1 million Americans have come to the United States legally, many of them through Ellis Island starting when we first began keeping records in 1820 until the year 2000 is the last time I can get the numbers added up and be firm on them. So 66.1 million self-selected individuals that brought their vitality to the United States because of the clarion call of freedom and liberty, and that liberty that was ensured and enhanced during the civil rights era.

I applaud Mr. DAVIS for his remarks, and I am a great fan of the contribution of Martin Luther King, Jr.

But, Mr. Speaker, I came to speak on an issue which has significant impact on the destiny of the United States of America. That is some of us found out very early yesterday morning, it came to my information about 3:30 yesterday morning here, that perhaps the worst,

most horrible murderer on the face of the earth had been brought to justice by Coalition Forces and Iraqi intelligence as well as Task Force 145 of the United States military, and I will say, all of the Coalition Forces together, and that would be the end of the very tyrannical career of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

We know they had followed him to a safe house where he was having a meeting with six of his other colleagues, some of them high level. Our surveillance had tracked him there. As they watched that safe house, they thought about different ways that they might be able to take action against Zarqawi, the person who was responsible for thousands of murders in Iraq.

Zarqawi was the inspiration, was the person that led the recruitment of al Qaeda fighters to come into Iraq and take on Coalition Forces and try to foment an insurrection, tried to foment a civil war. One who argued and promoted and schemed and planned and strategized to attack Shiites within Iraq for the specific and stated purpose of fomenting civil war in Iraq.

It was not just to fight Americans, which was bad enough, but it was to get Iraqis to fight Iraqis. And al Qaeda knew that if they lost a base of operations in Iraq, they didn't have another place to go to.

When our military went into Afghanistan in the fall of 2001 and won the significant victories there, that took out a base of operations for al Qaeda. They had operations that were beginning to take place down to Mogadishu, and when they moved some of those operations up to Afghanistan, they had a base of operations that would allow them to penetrate anywhere in the world and mount their terrorist operations against the United States embassies in Africa, the USS Cole, and bombings across the globe against other countries as well as the United States.

But when they had a base of operations, then they could raise funds, control those funds, bring in military supplies and munitions. They could train and recruit and send people out around the world. We picked out a lot of Taliban fighters during the Afghan operation, and many of them were brought to Guantanamo Bay. As we began to interrogate them, we found out that they had been going into Afghanistan to train. They came from different places in the world. And there was a handful of Americans that went to Afghanistan to train with al Qaeda to come back and fight somewhere in the world against the United States of America. Certainly we know that is the case for other countries as well.

Well, that base of operations in Afghanistan was wiped out in the fall of 2001. Justifiably so. And then the base of operations shifted over to Iraq. Now we know that there was an al Qaeda training camp in northern Iraq up in the Kurdistan region. We know that Saddam was working and strategizing

with al Qaeda. Some would say Saddam was secular; and, therefore, he would not have collaborated with Osama bin Laden. We know better than that.

The thing that is in history that we know the enemy of one's enemy is their friend. But Stalin and Hitler teamed together in World War II and converged in their battles over on Germany's eastern front until such time they met and clashed, and then Hitler turned around and attacked Stalin. The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

So we joined up with Stalin at that point and began to engage in that war that turned it into a two-front war for Germany. The idea that someone like Hitler could not have collaborated with Emperor Hirohito in Japan because they didn't match the same ideology doesn't matter throughout history. That is an erroneous assumption. That does not matter. It is an erroneous assumption throughout history that people will not cooperate and collaboration because they do not match the same goals or ideology. It is the enemy of my enemy is my friend. That is what was going on over between bin Laden and Saddam.

We know that Zarqawi went to Iraq and established himself as the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq. He said that he pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden. We have watched on television the horrible beheading of at least one American at the hand of al-Zarqawi. We know how bad this evil individual was.

I believe it was a year ago last April that he produced a letter. And the letter stated what the circumstances were like in Iraq. It should have been given us great heart. All Members in this Chamber should have read the letter and understood what it was Zarqawi was writing about.

Many people on the other side of the aisle denied the reality of what Zarqawi knew last April when he wrote this letter. If I remember right, it was about a 17-page letter. I remember some of the things that were in the letter, and it followed along these lines of now we are here in Iraq and we have to find a place where we can hide because if we are going to operate out of this country, it is a very dangerous place to do it because we have coalition forces and U.S. military that are breathing down our neck at every turn.

He said there is a difference between some countries where they have been successful in their guerrilla warfare and Iraq. And these are the reasons why Iraq will never be a Vietnam. He said there are no mountains or forests to hide in, we must hide in the homes of the Iraqi people who are willing to take us into their homes, and Iraqis willing to do so are as rare as red sulfur. That was a quote from the letter. Iraqis who are willing to receive al Qaeda and harbor and protect them are as rare as red sulfur.

Now I don't know how rare red sulfur is. I don't know if I have ever actually seen red sulfur. I have seen quite a lot

of yellow sulfur. I am going to assume it might be an expression like as rare as frog's hair or as rare as hen's teeth. But as rare as red sulfur.

So there weren't many places for al Qaeda to hide in Iraq even last April. They had to take over communities, and then we would go in and break up those cells. So they kept reforming again, kind of like flies do. We would scatter them and swat some and arrest some and kill some, and it was going along at a very brisk pace.

In fact, as recently ago as last summer the Coalition Forces, and this includes the Iraqi military of which there are at least 245,000 that are in uniform defending Iraqis today with those numbers going up 70,000 to 90,000 within a year, but these Coalition Forces were taking out between killed and captured 3,000 a month.

So as those numbers diminished within Iraq, so did Zarqawi's supporters. And the stronger the opposition to Zarqawi and the terrorist was, and the more confidence the Iraqi people got, the more tips that they handed over then to the Coalition Forces that we could act on.

We know that Uday and Qusay, Saddam Hussein's two sons, and actually one of his grandsons that were taken out in Mosul a couple of years ago, that was as a result of a tip.

Our 101st Airborne reacted and took them out. In the end the house that they were in, they demolished the house and hauled the rubble away and graded the lot empty. There will not be a martyr's shrine on that location, Mr. Speaker.

It was intelligence that did that, and it was intelligence that took out Saddam Hussein some months later, to find him and track him and find him in his spider hole. This is another high level of intelligence to be able to close in on Zarqawi.

We know they were close to him a number of times in the last few months. We have heard different people in the news state that eventually they would get Zarqawi. This should not be a surprise to us. Sometimes it is a surprise that a person can stay on the run and last as long as they did, but he stayed on the run until a little more than a day ago when our task force people put the laser on the safe house that he was in and then directed two 500-pound bombs into that house. We have seen the pictures of it. The house, made of cement blocks, is just a jumbled pile of broken up cement blocks.

Of the people who were in there, Zarqawi was the only one that was alive by the time our forces arrived there. I understand he expired not too long after they closed in, but he had at least enough left to recognize that it was Americans that had closed in and put an end to his terrible reign as the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq.

Now, I believe that Zarqawi got his just desserts. I believe he has been sent to his eternal reward, or his eternal punishment is a more precise way to

speak of that. I am grateful to the Coalition Forces, to the Iraqis, and especially to the United States military for the job they are doing over there in that country and in all of the theaters that we have in operations now in this global war on terror.

We know that things have heated up some in Afghanistan and the intensity that is there in Iraq, and the futility of the people on the other side who believe they can keep blowing up women and children and noncombatants.

The other day they pulled a bus over and sorted out the Sunnis and gave them a pass and executed the Shias and the Kurds on the bus. It is a horrible thing to create that kind of violence.

This man, Zarqawi, there was no level, no depth he would not stoop to. We know he has done the beheadings. He initiated the beheadings. Even today there were heads that were found in banana boxes in Iraq. They were put there to drive fear into the hearts of the people who would oppose al Qaeda.

We know also there are retribution killings, revenge killings on the other side. But the truth of it is there is progress being made in Iraq, and the progress that has been made in the last 3½ years while we have been in those operations has been slower than many of us would have liked. But compared to any other similar operation in history, it is going along pretty good.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep in mind that the Iraqis have established themselves as a sovereign nation. That is no small task in a nation of 25 million people torn by violence and strife and torn by an al Qaeda parasite that came into that society that was determined to tear them apart, that was attacking and fomenting the kind of violence that was designed to produce a civil war.

With all of those forces inside, with Iran providing resources to try to incite a civil war within Iraq, Iran not wanting to see free people in Iraq, for obvious reasons, the clerics, the mullahs that run the country of Iran, they want to stay in power.

□ 1545

And we know that there is a significant amount of unrest within Iran. The people in Iran have memories of a more modern, open society under the Shah, and they want to join the world community of nations and they want to move into the future. And they understand that if they are held back into the Dark Ages by a clerical group of leaders who are determined to hold them there and tell them what they can wear and what they can say and how they are going to live, to hold women back, to not allow elections, at least legitimate elections, that they will not be able to move Iran into the 21st century. And they want their opportunity. But the leaders in Iran want to hang on to the power.

That is all the way it is, Mr. Speaker. The leaders want to hang onto the

power, and so they are promoting the violence also in Iraq. Some of that violence has been supported out of Syria the same way and the infiltrators that come in that are the fighters for the insurgents come across the border from Iran into Iraq and from Syria into Iraq in the greatest numbers from those two countries. There is support in both of those countries for an insurgency that had we had the cooperation of Iran, had we had the cooperation of Syria, this operation in Iraq would have been over a long time ago.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would point out for the edification of the folks that don't think about this very much that a war is never over until the losing side realizes that they have lost. It isn't a function of how many people are killed, or a function of how much land is occupied, or a function of how many battles are fought and won. They are all factors. But those are all factors that are designed to influence and convince the other side that they will eventually lose, in fact, may have lost the war. And so every operation that we have, military operation, any kind of a sanction that is there, any kind of a blockade, any kind of psyops, any psychological operations that are going on, media message that is going out there, the voice of the President, the Secretary of Defense, the voices on this floor of Congress, Mr. Speaker, should all be designed to promote the idea that America will not blink, that we will not back out, that we will stand up for freedom and stand up for liberty. And if that consistent message goes across the ocean into the Middle East, those people that are sitting in those huts making bombs and deciding that they are going to plant them and detonate them on American troops or coalition troops or Iraqi troops, or Iraqi women and children, at some point they will understand, we will not blink. We will not flag. We will not fail. We will carry out our efforts on this war on terror globally, and Iraq is a battle field in the global war on terror.

This country cannot fail in our resolve. We will be resolved and we will finish this task. And the task will be over when the enemy realizes that they have lost. That is the very definition of winning a war, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Von Clausewitz wrote in his book on war that the object of war is to destroy the enemy's will and ability to conduct war. Destroy the enemy's will and ability. And Von Clausewitz understood that if you could destroy the enemy's will, they would not have the ability to conduct war. And if you take away the enemy's ability to conduct war, part of that ability is having the will. Without the will, no amount of weapons, no amount of resources would even be used at all because there would be a lack of will to ever use them.

So to destroy the enemy's will and ability to conduct war boils down in the Steve King version to make the enemy realize that they have lost. Once they reach that realization, then

they will give up their arms, they will give up their efforts and there will be peace and there be a peaceful reconciliation that resolves things hopefully for the better so that people can live free. That is the effort that is going on in Iraq. And we lose sight of the reason that we want to see the Iraqi people with peace and freedom and, in fact, I would say freedom first and peace second. And the reason for that is because, after all, we have an obligation to promote freedom throughout the world, but we also can't be denying this freedom to anyone.

And we need peace in the Middle East. It is a critical part of the world. It puts a threat on everyone in the world when we don't have peace in the Middle East. One of those things would be to look to the freest people that are in the Middle East today, and that would be the citizens of Israel. And where they sit with enemies surrounding them all around, the threat to them, the pressure on them is a threat and the pressure that threatens to annihilate an entire people. They have a right to be there. That is their sovereign nation. And they are a lamp of liberty in the Middle East. The people that live around them don't have the freedom that Israel has.

But soon, I believe they will. I believe they will because Iraq is emerging as a free Arab nation. And Afghanistan has emerged as a free Arab nation. Not without trouble, not without strife, not without violence, not without some more outbreaks of Taliban violence, not without some more battles with al Qaeda over in Afghanistan, certainly not without more battles with al Qaeda within Iraq. But if Afghanistan, a nation of 25 million people, and Iraq, a nation of 25 million people, can emerge a free people, Afghanistan has, Iraq is poised to do so. They become the lode star for all the Arab people in the world. And the people that have lived the least under freedom now have an opportunity to live under freedom.

And I don't believe that the force of freedom can be held back, because the march of history is always, Mr. Speaker, a march towards freedom. And it has been a gradual progression throughout the ages, but in our age, in our lifetime, and this past half a century and peripherally in this next half a century, we will see more progress towards freedom than ever in the history of the world and, in fact, in all the rest of the history of the world put together, I believe we will look back on this time and say this was the time that freedom emerged on the globe. And it emerged in the aftermath of World War II and it burst out when the Berlin Wall came down, November 9, 1989, and we saw freedom echo across Eastern Europe, almost bloodlessly, in a historical miracle of people that now live and breathe free. Five hundred million people at least freed in that echo of freedom when the Berlin Wall went tumbling down and families were reunited.

And as I watched that on the news, I noticed that the national news media missed it. They thought it was about reuniting families and breaking champagne bottles on the Berlin Wall. They didn't realize it was the crashing down of the Iron Curtain. They didn't realize that that era was over. And even for 2½ years after that, as nation after nation emerged free, as they stood in the square in Prague and people stood there and shook their keys by the tens of thousands and just rattled their keys, Mr. Speaker, in a chorus, in a din that said we will be free, and that country is free today. They had their Velvet Revolution and separated again and they seem to be happy between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic and their neighbors are free.

And as I look at the coalition troops that are there in Iraq today, the ones that I have met as I have been over there in my several trips over to the Iraq region and into Iraq, I recognize that the participation in this effort is greater within the countries that lived under tyranny up until the fall of the Wall and the end of the Cold War on November 9, 1989. That participation of those countries is greater in percentage than the countries that have lived under freedom longer. Those that got their freedom back from the Third Reich at the end of World War II, some of those countries forgot what it was that they achieved 60 years ago. But those countries that just achieved their freedom less than 15 years before sent their troops to fight for freedom in Afghanistan and in Iraq because they have an institutional memory within the people in the government and within their leaders on what it is like to live under tyranny.

But here in this country, we have a better memory than that. We have not ever lived under tyranny here in the United States of America. We have lived free from July 4, 1776, even though we had to fight a few wars to keep it, all the way up until today. Some of us would argue that our freedom gets diminished and we argue, here, Mr. Speaker, rather than going to the streets to clash in the streets, we have our debates here. We have an outlet for our desire to make change. And this is that outlet. And there are outlets in the State legislatures all across this land and in the county supervisors and the city halls. We take our disagreements to the public forum, and we have a civilized debate. And as the former majority leader and my friend and colleague, TOM DELAY, said on this floor, this very podium about this same time yesterday, you show me a nation that doesn't have partisanship and I will show you a tyranny.

If there is not a forum for debate and for disagreement and dialogue, then that means a tyrant will be in control and be denying that forum. Well, a tyrant was in control in Iraq and he is now under trial, Saddam Hussein. And there were tyrants in control of the lawless regions in Afghanistan. And

now they are free and there are people who have a future. And now, Iraq has a brighter future because the tyrant, the murderer, the baby slaughterer, the person who beheaded people on television has gone to meet his eternal justice. And I think I know where he will spend eternity, Mr. Speaker, and I can think of no better justice for someone like Zarqawi than that.

Some of the things that he did would be to go take someone off the street and kill them because maybe they had a different viewpoint about what the future of Iraq should be. Kill them, disembowel them, fill their body up with explosives and projectiles such as screws and bolts and ball bearings and then put their body alongside the road and sit back and wait for the family to come and recover the body and then detonate the body and blow it up and kill the rest of the family. I cannot think of anything more horrible than an act like that.

But I can tell you that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Mr. Speaker, spent a great deal of his time trying to think of more brutal things that he could do, more shocking things that he could do, more ways that he could try to crack the nerve of the Iraqi people so that somehow, in that conflict, in the confusion into a civil war that he would have like to have created, he could have found a way to take power and turn Iraq not into a sovereign nation, not even into a real tyranny, but to turn it into a terrorist camp so that he could bring funds in, train people and dispatch people around the world to attack civilizations unlike him.

And that is what the hatred is of al Qaeda. That is the kind of enemy that we are up against, Mr. Speaker, and that is that this is a battle and Western Civilization is an element in this battle. And I will submit that al Qaeda, radical Islam is a parasite on the religion of Islam. And this parasite has attached themselves to Islam. And a parasite will attach themselves to the host; Islam is the host. And they will travel on the host. They will feed off the host; they will reproduce on and within the host. And they will attack the host and they will drop off the host and attack other species. That is what a parasite is.

And I will submit that al Qaeda and radical Islam is that parasite that is now riding on the host of Islam. And we need to be asking Islam to rid themselves of this host, with our help, help guide us, but purge yourselves, rid yourselves of this parasite. Purge themselves of the parasite radical Islam, al Qaeda, because sometimes parasites are fatal, and they will consume their host and the host will perish. Well, this parasite has caused numerous Muslims to perish because they have turned and attacked the host and, in fact, I believe that there is not really any question about it. When we look across the world and we count the bodies, the bodies of Muslims lie in significantly greater numbers than the bodies

of Jews or Christians that are victims of al Qaeda, victims of radical Islam. They turn on their own. Zarqawi was one of those people. He drew a distinction between Shiias and Sunnis. And when he did that, he began attacking Shiias to try to get them infuriated. He blew up their mosque to try to get them to turn around and attack the Sunnis so that they could have a civil war.

□ 1600

And we had leaders within this country and this Congress, Mr. Speaker, that would join together and declare that there was a civil war in Iraq, and their definition of a civil war would be when the unrest in Iraq got to the point where they had lost their level of tolerance to watch it on the news, I guess. And so some came to the floor and said that there was a civil war. Many said so in the news. There was a group of Senators from the other body that did so. A junior Senator from Iowa declared a civil war to be taking place in Iraq. And I contend that you need to define a civil war before you declare there is one, and I will define it this way:

We will know when there is a civil war in Iraq, and I do not believe for a moment there will be one. I think the steps that were taken yesterday and the death of Zarqawi move things closer towards peace and freedom and further away from the threat of a civil war. But a civil war in Iraq will be defined when the Iraqi military that are in uniform protecting Iraqis, and remember we have Kurds and Shiias and Sunnis all wearing the same uniforms, Mr. Speaker, and they all take the same training and they all carry the same weapons, and they answer to officers that are officers, without regard to whether they are Shiias, Kurds, or Sunnis. But if that ecumenical military, if I can use a little license to describe them that way, chooses up sides and starts to shoot at each other, that is how we will know there is a civil war.

But what we have are at least 250,000 Iraqis in uniform protecting Iraqis without regard to whether they are Shiias, Sunnis, or Kurds, wearing the same uniforms, mixed up in roughly proportionate numbers and defending Iraqis against al Qaeda, defending Iraqis against terrorists, defending Iraqis against criminals, and defending Iraqis against former Baathists that are in their last gasps.

Now, there are also some that believe that somehow Saddam Hussein will come back to power. And because he is alive, because he is able to put up a fight in the courtroom, it gives inspiration to those people that have always been intimidated by Saddam and believe that somehow he has, I don't want to call it a supernatural power, but a power that transcends the limits of a mortal human being in a way that they can't be confident that he is out of power forever until he checks into the next life and joins Zarqawi.

For that reason, I am hopeful that we can get the trials over in Iraq. I am hopeful that we can move forward and if Saddam is found guilty, and so in this country we say innocent until proven guilty and I will afford him on this floor, Mr. Speaker, at least that much latitude, he is innocent until proven guilty. But I have seen and the world has seen plenty of evidence to the contrary.

Now, if that evidence is continually presented in court and the Iraqi court finds him guilty, I did meet with the judges over there last August and sat down with the panel of the judges and one of the questions that I asked the judge was, what is the penalty for Saddam? And he said, Well, first I cannot speak about a case that is before the court. That is appropriate. That is the rules we have in this country. And I should probably not have asked him such a direct question, but I did test out apparently his good judgment to not speak about a case that was before the court.

So I asked him the longest convoluted question one could imagine, at least that I could imagine at the time, which is: If there were crimes that were committed or alleged to have been committed which would be of a similar vein, of the murders up in the region in Kurdistan and the killing of the swamp Arabs in the south, I went through the whole list of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis that had died, if that had happened and if hypothetically we had someone who was found responsible for committing those kind of atrocities, if that person were brought before this court and they were faced with a penalty that would be similar to or charges that were similar to a charge that was being faced by Saddam Hussein then, what would the penalty be?

That is how you have to ask the question without him addressing the case. And he said if someone is charged under Iraqi law the charge of crimes against humanity, then there is only one penalty available and it all is in one paragraph in Iraqi law and I have read it, and that one penalty is death. And so that would be I think a suitable punishment for someone who may well be responsible for the deaths of half a million Iraqis.

I have looked at some of the statistics, and under Saddam's reign there are varying numbers, but I am always asking these questions trying to quantify how bad was the violence under Saddam Hussein, and I can come up with some conclusions. The number that I see come up the most often, the annual deaths in Iraq or the total deaths during Saddam's regime, and then divide it by the year and by the day. And, Mr. Speaker, the most common number that came up was that Saddam was killing his own people at the rate of 182 per day; 182 of his own people per day murdered, many of them tortured, many of them raped in rape rooms. Can you imagine an administration that had professional rapists that

are on salary to torture and terrorize and rape family members within the presence of other family members in order to extract certain confessions out of them or just simply punish them to watch their loved ones treated in that fashion? Put through shredders, plastic shredders and ground into little pieces, fed to lions. Those are the kinds of things that Saddam Hussein was doing as well as unleashing gas on the Kurds, for example.

This was going on in that country for years and years. And maybe that number is not 182 a day. The lowest number I can find is about 135 a day. But if you add these numbers up and you subtract from it the numbers of Iraqi civilians that have lost their lives in this conflict since the aberrations began in March of 2003, if you add that up, there are at least 100,000 Iraqis alive today in Iraq that would not be if we had not intervened and pulled Saddam Hussein from power and given the Iraqi people their opportunity at freedom. 100,000 lives at least statistically have been saved in this operation that the news media characterizes as so utterly violent that we should sack up our bats and hit the road no matter what the consequences.

I have heard that statement made even in the aftermath of Zarqawi. The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) made the statement, or at least the news reported that, this is, that we should get out of Iraq. This is a sign that tells us to get out of Iraq.

Well, those that want to get out of Iraq will use any excuse to try to make the argument. But I asked the question sometime back and I have made the statement on this floor, Mr. Speaker, and I will go down this path of making it again. And it is from memory and not some notes, so there could be a decimal point or two that I could be off, but I will be exactly right on the substance and on the theme.

I asked the question, myself: How can the regular Iraqi civilian, people that are living there scattered all over Iraq in random places, some in Baghdad, some in Kirkuk, some in Mosul, some down in Basra, some in smaller towns, Tikrit and wherever, how can those people, those citizens that want to live a peaceful life and raise their families and have a future, how can they tolerate living in a country that has the level of violence that every day shows these bombings on television to the point where we are jaded here in America and hardly look at them anymore. We kind of do a little mental calculation of what kind of casualties there are over there in civilians. Here was a bombing with 10, here is a bomb that killed 20, here is the bus they pulled aside and, by Zarqawi's orders everyone has to assume, when they sorted out the Sunnis and let them go and killed the Kurds and the Shias, how can one live in a country that has that level of violence? How violent is Iraq?

And I will have to admit that some of the places that I have been in this

country and the statistics that I see caused me to pay attention. And not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, I was down in Brazil in Sao Paulo, and some of the briefings as I came into that city from the airport and it is a large city in southern Brazil that they have 10,000 homicides in that city every year. 10,000. A division, a number greater than a division are annihilated in that one city in Brazil by murder.

So I began to simply calculate, statistically what does that mean. And I didn't get good statistics on how large an area that was, so I didn't commit those numbers to where I could repeat them here, Mr. Speaker. But you divide the 10,000 into the population of Sao Paulo to find out how many homicides per 100,000. And internationally that is the way we measure the risk of violence and homicide.

And so I don't have that number, but that is the one that inspired me to look. So we went back and we added up all the deaths, all the deaths that are in Iraq, all the deaths that we can calculate and tabulate. And there are a couple of Web sites that do that, and at least one of those Web sites is designed to be able to add as many numbers as possible to this.

Now, here are the statistics then, Mr. Speaker, on how dangerous it is to be a regular civilian living in an average place in any of these countries that I have laid out here on this graph, and you can see by the chart.

Here is the United States. Out of every 100,000 people, every year annually there are 4.28 Americans that are murdered, that die violently at the hands of someone who willfully wished them harm and acted upon it: 4.28 per 100,000. Mexico's rate is three times greater than ours, a little more than three times greater. Theirs is 13.02 per 100,000.

We move up the line. Here is Iraq down here pretty low in this graph scale, 27.51 per 100,000 people. That is their level of violence. Now, it is possible that the tabulation has missed some murder in Iraq that maybe didn't get reported perhaps out in some of the obscure towns and cities because their bureaucracy is not very efficient at this point. But it is also likely and in fact very probable that they double-counted some of the other homicides; so I can't tell you if this number is maybe a little bit lower than it is in reality or it is a little higher than it is in reality, but I can tell you this, we don't expect this number to be down here. And if we would double this number, we would still not anticipate that is the case, and the reason is because of the United States news media, Mr. Speaker. And I so will take you up the line.

Venezuela, 31.61 violent deaths per 100,000; Jamaica, 32.42 violent deaths per 100,000. I can remember these. Venezuela and Jamaica, I teamed those together. They both average out at 32 deaths per 100,000. That happened to be OJ Simpson's jersey number, so I will

never forget that number. You can ask me in 20 years. Thirty-two violent deaths per 100,000 for Venezuela and Jamaica.

And then you go to South Africa, and down in that country, a great welcome when I visited and met good people and they are struggling to move themselves into the 21st century as well, Mr. Speaker, but in reality you look around and you will see that there are fences built around the homes and walls built around the homes. And they will take glass, and when they finish their wall on top of their wall put mortar on top and set broken glass in the top of that mortar, so those people that want to climb across the wall have to get cut up on that glass.

And then I talked to one of our U.S. council employees and asked him what it was like to live in a country that was walled in, that you were shut in in your own little fortress of your home. And he said, Well, it is not so bad for me because we have a good wall around our house and it has got good security on top of it, and we have got cameras and we have got warning devices, and we have got good solid doors and bars across the windows. And, if they get through those doors or through those bars and get into the interior of the house, we have good solid doors there, too, but we have a chamber that we can go into to protect ourselves that is almost impregnable. So we can always retreat into that if someone invades our home.

It kind of sounds like a war. It sounds like an invading army coming into a country the same way one might consider to be an invading terrorist, criminal coming into a home. It is not a lot different when someone comes across our border, especially when they are armed.

South Africa, 49.60 violent deaths per 100,000. Colombia, one of the highest murder rates in the world and it ranks significantly higher than the United States. So of 61.78 violent deaths per 100,000 in Colombia, well over twice as high as the violent deaths in Iraq.

Now I start to ask the question: How can an individual, an average citizen in Colombia, tolerate the level of violence in Colombia? How long has it been since you have seen the mainstream news media run a story on that? And I would say you could do a Lexus-Nexus search, but never wouldn't surprise me, Mr. Speaker. So Colombia is not the highest murder rate in the world, but they are multiple times greater than the United States. Honduras is not on here, but their rate is nine times that of the United States. And Swaziland is out there at 88.61 violent deaths per 100,000. Now, that is a lawless society. But I just about guarantee, Mr. Speaker, that nobody hears a word about that lawless society in Swaziland, but it approaches that number of three times as dangerous to live in Swaziland, in fact it exceeds that of number as three times as dangerous to live in Swaziland as it is to live in Iraq today.

And yet people think that civil society has broken down in Iraq and that there is not a way to operate in that country because it has been taken over by violence.

Well, we had a little violence there for al Zarqawi and lots of people were dancing in the street and firing their weapons in the air like they did when Saddam Hussein was collared, and it is a significant moment in the history of this war on terror, and it is an indicator of what will happen to the next person that emerges to take the head of the operation of al Qaeda and the enemy operations within Iraq. We will always be targeting those people at the top, those people that are second tier, third tier, grabbing them wherever we can. And we have an individual here on the floor with us who has, as I know, been to a very intense and detailed and informative briefing on the operations that were able to take Zarqawi out.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

□ 1615

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Iowa, and I appreciate his dealing with this subject. It is important right now, while we are talking about Mr. Zarqawi and his timely departure, that we consider why it has taken so long to find him.

Under President Clinton, we began to see the budget cut for our intelligence services by up to 30 percent. But one of the most damaging things that happened during that time was that the intelligence services, under Presidential order, began to refuse to pay or refused to use the services of anyone who had a criminal background or anyone who had an association with unsavory elements.

It was an attempt to bring purity into a system that frankly cannot work on purity. Many times people with information are insiders, and they are insiders because they are willing to cooperate with the officials.

So what we did when we eliminated all intelligence sources with any crimes in their background, we eliminated in Iraq, for instance, all of the people who had fought with the Ba'athists, either willingly or unwillingly.

Because we eliminated them, we eliminated any capability to really get information from them. So we dismantled in the 1990s, we began to dismantle our overseas operations, especially in North Africa, we said we do not need information anymore. I do not if the President looked at the falling of the Berlin Wall and assumed that the American threats were finished.

But President Clinton severely hindered our capability to find information from human sources, and instead said we will accomplish all of our intelligence operations through electronic means.

Well, electronic means do not tell you the heart and soul and plans of

what people want to do. And so 9/11 had many indicators and in the period leading up to it, but we were not able to capitalize on those, because we did not know future plans.

The entire operation that nabbed Mr. Zarqawi was, in fact, a very strong indicator that our intelligence system is beginning to work again. President Bush reinstated our security, our using of human intelligence in other countries.

We began to search for information. And because of that, we began to reestablish intelligence that, in the end, began to tell us where Zarqawi was. Then we watched him for several days. We saw the places where he went, and a coordinated attack took out not only Mr. Zarqawi, we took out several of the people that he was with.

But we hit 17 different sites on the same day. Now we did not damage or completely take out of all of those sites, we simply hit the sites, cleared everybody up and then we went in and captured all of the hard drives, the computers, all of the intelligence.

Now the important thing about what our opponents are saying these days in the streets of America, that we should not be listening to any of the conversations of al-Qaeda on the telephone, is that in the aftermath of those 17 sites being captured, we have access to computer records, phone numbers, that tell us who the terrorists are talking to every day.

And we do not have the time, if we want to get timely information, to go through the laborious process of filing all of the documents, building the case, taking them in, getting the warrants under the FISA provisions. Instead, the President has said, we are in a time of war. The Constitution says that the President can use means to monitor the enemy in times of war. And, in fact, we are doing that at this point.

We have got good, well-meaning people in America who would dismantle that program and hinder our capability to even capture or kill more of the terrorist, but I think that President Bush is on the right track, and the fact that we cannot not only hit the leader of al-Qaeda, Mr. Zarqawi, but in addition to that, hit 17 different spots in the same day and take out other people and capture important hard drives, computer-generated information, is an exceptional thing.

I have more comments, but I would yield back to the gentleman from Iowa for him to make his comments.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico. In the interim I was able to come up with this picture that I think is important to have posted here for us to remember this individual.

Remember, Zarqawi was an inspiration to our enemy. And I do not believe that Zarqawi is going to end up being the inspiration in the form of a martyr as we often consider them to be.

You know, when you think about what a martyr is, that would be one

person who committed and dedicated their lives to a cause selflessly, in an inspirational way, and perhaps one who might have died in that cause.

Can you think of two martyrs for the same cause, Mr. Speaker? And I think back, I cannot think of two martyrs for the same cause. But I would point that out. Maybe there are.

But if I cannot think of two, I am convinced I cannot think of three, or four or five or six or ten martyrs for the same cause, or 100 or 1,000 or 10,000. Martyrs come along in groups of 1, not groups of 2, 5, 10, 20 or 1,000.

I would submit this, Mr. Speaker, that the more of these alleged martyrs that there are, the less they are martyrs and the more they become statistics, and the less anyone is inspired by someone who is full of murder and hatred and brutality.

They do not stand for anything except murder, hatred and brutality. I would be happy to yield to Mr. PEARCE.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would make a short comment, Mr. Speaker, that we, in essence, have helped the message. Mr. Bin Laden and Mr. Zarqawi have been telling all of their peers that it is better to die for your beliefs, that you should go out and die for your beliefs.

Please, go out and through yourself into the enemy, sacrifice your life. And so Mr. Bin Laden and Mr. Zarqawi, up to this point, have been unwilling to do that. They have been willing to preach it, but not to do it. So either unwilling or willingly, Mr. Zarqawi has been given over to his fate.

So I would just say that we are beginning to see the dismantling of the leadership. I will tell you that the Civil War failed for the South because they could never keep enough generals in the field. The Union had more generals and more depth. And as the Confederacy began to lose generals, then the decisions that were made became not so sound, the military maneuvers, the military battlefields were not commanded with the same professionalism, and that is where the South began to really have its difficulties.

I think we are going to see al-Qaeda have the same difficulties. I think we are going to continue until we ultimately tap Mr. Bin Laden, allow him to find his glory in this great struggle also.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman. I point out also to key into that point, that Stonewall Jackson may have been the most inspiring general in the South, but you cannot inspire people from the grave. Well, you can do that, but you cannot recruit military to fight underneath you from the grave.

This fellow, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is done recruiting for al-Qaeda. They are not going to come here to fight in his memory, because they are going to meet the same kind of end as Zarqawi.

But I want to point out his statement here, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important for Americans to burn into

their mind his attitude towards Americans. He said, "Americans are the most cowardly of God's creatures. They are an easy quarry, praise be to God. We ask God to enable us to kill and capture them."

That was his letter to al-Qaeda, February 2004. Americans, the most cowardly of creatures? You know, in this entire conflict, the battle in the global war on terror, in the breadth of Afghanistan and Iraq and all points in between and the periphery of all of those, I have yet to hear of a single incident of an cowardly American soldier.

I mean, it may have happened. But I have not heard of a single incident. I have only heard of bravery and courage and sacrifice. And each quarter, I never let it be longer than that, I go to visit our wounded Americans in places like Bethesda, Walter Reed and Landstuhl there in Germany. And when I go in to visit those wounded soldiers, they give me strength, they give me inspiration. They believe in this cause, and we must not let them down.

And most of them feel guilty that they were wounded, because now they are not with their men. Most of them want to go back to their unit. In fact, we have had amputees that have gone back to their unit and engaged in combat again. That is the kind of inspiration, that is what Americans are about.

Zarqawi could not be more wrong. I am happy to say today he could not be more dead. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa. I would remind the body that we had warning signs. Just because Mr. Zarqawi is no longer part of the conspiracy of al-Qaeda, the war of terrorism, just because of that, that does not mean this struggle is over.

Again, the war on terror started in 1972 with the Munich Olympics. At that point, the world negotiators gave the terrorists center stage. They allowed them to come to the table. That was a mistake that we continued all of the way up through President Bush, almost 30 years of giving them credibility instead of trying to dismantle the operation.

So I would remind our viewers that this is not going to be an easy task, even with this significant loss this week. And I would yield back to the gentleman from Iowa to close the discussion.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for joining me and raising his voice and standing up for United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I have this one quick chart that I am going to run through quickly. That is, the Iraq numbers again for civilians, 27.51 for 100,000.

Where is the place most comparable to that in the United States today? Oakland, California. If you are safe in Oakland, that is about how safe they feel in Iraq today with the exception of the national news media's exceptions.

God bless our troops. I yield back.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor being before the House once again. As you know, the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor as often as possible to not only share with the Members what is going on as it relates to legislation here in Washington, D.C., but also what is not going on on behalf of the American people.

And hopefully we can put forth ideas and extending the arm to work in a bipartisan way on behalf of the American people. So we are glad to come to the floor week after week. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Democratic Leader for allowing us to have this hour, and also our Democratic Whip, Mr. STENY HOYER, and Mr. JAMES CLYBURN, who is our chairman of our Democratic Caucus, and Mr. LARSON, who is our vice-chair.

I think it is important that we come to the floor to share a unified message from this side, that we are willing and able. We have the will and the desire to work on behalf of the American people in general. Not just Democrats, not just Republicans or independents, but the American people in general, to make sure the people of good will prevail in their everyday lives.

If they are a veteran, if they are an individual that has fallen on hard times, if they run a small business in this country, if they have a mid-sized business that they want to turn into a big business, we want to be able to be of some assistance as it relates to legislating here on behalf of the American people.

Also, I think it is important that we do not leave our children behind. Even though they cannot vote, many of them are under the age of 18 years old, not eligible to vote, I think it is important that we stand for them.

There are a number of things that I am going to try to touch on today, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can cover all of, just about all of what is happening and what is not happening here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I took the time when we were on break last week to really look closely at some of the comparisons, because when you are trying to figure out what is happening to the issues that we all came to Washington to work so hard on, you have to compare, it is almost like you have to have, Mr. Speaker, a side-by-side what we call it here in Washington, D.C. to compare.

It is almost like for someone who goes to the grocery store to buy an orange, I am from Florida, nine times out of ten, you are going to pick up those

two oranges if they are from two different orange groves and kind of compare, to see if it is an orange.

You are not going to grab an apple and grab an orange and start saying, well, which one looks like an orange. But I must say here in Washington, D.C., it is almost like an orange and an apple experience, because we are so far apart as it relates to working together on many of these issues that are facing our constituents back home, and the American men and women that are overseas fighting on our behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I looked at the issue of fiscal responsibility, and I could not help but notice, within the House GOP budget, that the budget calls for deficits as far as the eye can see, never achieving a balance. And adding another \$2.3 trillion to the national debt over 5 years, compared to the Democratic alternative and the Democratic philosophy, if we can work in a bipartisan way to be able to balance this budget, balance the budget over the next 5 years, making sure that we can balance it over the next 6 years on a pay-as-you-go philosophy.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I will talk a little bit about that as I continue to go down this chart. We believe that we can balance this budget because we have done it before, unlike the Republican conference or the Republican side of the House which has not.

There was a surplus when the Republicans took control of this House or when the President went into office and President Bush went into office. Now we are into record deficits, and I think it is important that we point this out. And I have charts to be able to break that down for the Members.

I think it is also important to think about making America safer here at home. I looked at the Republican budget, and I could not help but notice that it made homeland security cuts by \$488 million this year, and it is up to \$6.1 billion over the next 5 years of cuts to homeland security. And it is not much better than the President's budget that came out of this House. It estimated that port security grants and rail transit security grants will all be rolled into a smaller program. And I think that that is something that is going to hurt a lot of local communities.

On the Democratic side in our budget and our motion to recommit of our philosophy as it relates to what we should be doing by the homeland is to provide \$6.5 billion more over the next 5 years for homeland security here by guaranteeing funding for border security, port security, and first responders which are so important to so many counties and local governments that are out there on the frontline that have to respond to the American people in their time of need.

Adequate funding for veterans. This is another point, Mr. Speaker, I will elaborate a little bit more during this hour of the facts. Like we always say